A return message received at the receiver 1020 may be an $RESV_1$_ERR message, which indicates that the reservation initiated by the receiver has failed, or a coupled $RESV_1$_Confirm/$RESV_2$ message, which indicates that the reservation in both directions has succeeded. Depending on the type of message received the receiver 1020 functions differently, as illustrated in FIG. 17. If a message is received and the received message is an $RESV_2$_ERR message at 1640, the receiver 1020 also aborts the 4-way handshake at 1670. If the timely received message is an $RESV_2$/$RESV_1$_Confirm message at 1645, the receiver 1020 constructs an acknowledgement message RESV2_Confirm at 1690 and sends it directly back to the sender 1010 at 1655 to complete the 4-way handshake. A 2-way communication may then be started at 1660.

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please enter the following amended claims:

7. (Amended) A method for an egress policy enforcement device, said egress being defined in the direction from a first party to a second party, said first party initiating a two-way communication, said egress policy enforcement device connecting to a network, said method comprising:

intercepting a message, said message being either a PATH message or an RESV message, said PATH message carrying a resource reservation request for communication from said first party to said second party, said RESV message carrying path information and a resource reservation request for communication from said second party to said first party;

adding an address to said PATH message if said message is a PATH message, said address identifying said egress policy enforcement device, said adding resulting in a revised PATH message;

determining a forwarding address for forwarding said revised PATH message;

forwarding said revised PATH message to said forwarding address;

reserving needed network resource if said message is an RESV message, said needed network resource being specified by the resource reservation request carried in said RESV message, said reserving yielding a decision of either positive, representing granting the needed network resource, or negative, representing not granting the needed network resource;

determining a next hop address if said decision is positive;

forwarding said RESV message to said next hop address; and

sending an RESV_ERR message to said second party if said decision is negative.